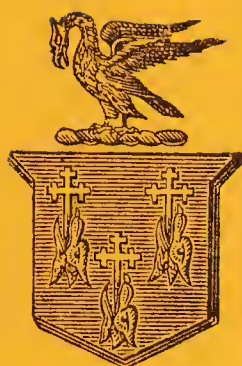


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Port and Borough of King's Lynn.

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
Medical Officer of Health
FOR THE YEAR 1946

BY
JAMES W. McINTOSH
B Sc. (Public Health) M.B., F.R.C.S.E.

WITH WHICH IS INCLUDED THE
Annual Report of the
Borough Sanitary Inspector
Mr. H. G. COBBOLD, M.S.I.A.

BOROUGH OF KING'S LYNN.

Health and Port Health Committee

November, 1946.

Chairman : Alderman Mrs. A. M. FISHER.

Alderman J. HARWOOD CATLEUGH, O.B.E., J.P.

„ J. W. RABY, J.P.

Councillor W. BAKER.

„ E. M. BENEFER.

„ T. W. BLOMFIELD.

„ J. J. BONE.

„ A. P. BURTON.

„ H. W. DAWSON.

„ C. A. FREESTONE, M.B.E.

„ O. R. JERMYN, J.P.

„ J. LEWIN, F.R.C.S., J.P.

„ E. PAINE.

„ C. PANTON.

„ W. J. PANTON.

„ J. SEAMAN.

„ P. J. WEBB, J.P.

Note.—Councillors Burlingham, Frost, Ives and Whitmore were Members of the Health and Port Health Committee to 31st October, 1946.

BOROUGH OF KING'S LYNN.

Public Health Officers of the Authority :—

- (a) (Medical). All Medical Officers are part time. Some are employed by the Norfolk County Council and hold Clinics, etc., in King's Lynn.

Medical Officer to the Health and Port Health Authority and Assistant School Medical Officer (Norfolk County Council) :—
JAMES W. McINTOSH, B.SC., (Public Health), M.B., F.R.C.S.E.

Clinical Tuberculosis Officer (Norfolk County Council) :—
H. B. HODSON, M.D., M.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Orthopædic Surgeon (Norfolk County Council) :—
H. A. BRITTAIN, M.A., M.CH., F.R.C.S.

Venereal Disease (Norfolk County Council) :—
JAMES W. McINTOSH, B.SC., (Public Health), M.B., F.R.C.S.E.

Consultant Medical Officers under Midwives Act :—
J. O. HARRISON, M.B., D.OBST.R.C.O.G., F.R.C.S.
J. LEWIN, M.B., B.S., F.R.C.S.

Ophthalmic Surgeon :—
S. T. PARKER, M.B., CH.B., L.R.C.P., F.R.C.S.

Poor Law Medical Officer and Public Vaccinator :—
M. CHADWICK, B.A., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

- (b) Veterinary Surgeon :—
H. C. SWANN, M.R.C.V.S.

Public Analyst :—S. GREENBURGH, PH.D., B.SC., F.R.I.C.

Senior Sanitary Inspector to the Health and Port Health Authority :—
H. G. COBBOLD, M.S.I.A.

Additional Sanitary Inspector to the Health and Port Health Authority :—
H. F. ROBINSON, M.S.I.A., A.R.SAN.I.

Vaccination Officer :—G. H. J. CHAMBERLAIN.

Health Visitors :—
Miss VINCENT, S.R.N., R.S.I., S.C.M. (to 30th September).
Miss S. M. LILLEY, S.R.N., R.S.I. (from 4th February).
Mrs. PEACH (part-time).

To the Chairman and Members
OF THE
Health and Port Health Committee
of King's Lynn.

*Public Health Department,
3, King Street,
King's Lynn,
May, 1947.*

Madam and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year 1946.

The general health of the Borough has been good. There has been no serious outbreak of Infectious Disease.

In my last Annual Report I called attention to the narrow margin we were on as regards water supply: that the reserve of water in Leziate Reservoir is only equivalent to about 24 hours supply.

Maternal Mortality.

462 live births and 5 still births have been notified to me. There were no maternal deaths. In the past nine years there have been 4,031 confinements and only one maternal death. The maternal mortality rate is, therefore, very much below the average for the whole country.

Infantile Mortality.

There were 15 deaths of children under one year, and of these 10 were children one month of age or less, and 5 of children over one month and under one year. This is an infantile mortality rate of 32.47 per 1,000 live births.

Causes of death in those under one month :—

- 7 premature.
- 2 heart failure and disease.
- 1 hydrocephalus and spinal-bifida.
- 1 tracheal obstruction.
- 1 congenital cerebral lesion.
- 1 pemphigus neonatorum.

As regards the 5 who died between one month and one year, 1 died of broncho-pneumonia, 1 accidental asphyxia, 2 enteritis, and 1 pyo-pneumothorax. Fatal cases of enteritis, of which 2 children died, is a disease that can and should be prevented in practically all cases. As we had only 2 fatal cases of this disease in about 400 children conditions are still improving. The increased attention given to mothers and babies is undoubtedly having effect.

General Standard of Cleanliness.

Under the Education Act the School Medical Officer is responsible for the health of school children and will, no doubt, report in this connection. As regards children under 5, a few cases of head lice have been discovered. The Health Visitors give special attention to these cases and are aware of the families requiring special supervision. There are still cases of ring-worm amongst children under 5. All cases are under treatment.

Illegitimate Children.

Co-operation with the Moral Welfare Officer is satisfactory. 21 illegitimate children were born during the year and in most cases the child was cared for by relatives. All are specially visited by the Health Visitors. Where necessary the Moral Welfare Officer makes arrangements for the patients to be confined in Moral Welfare Hostels away from the Borough, and the Town Council have agreed to make a grant in necessitous cases, i.e., Maternity Home expenses up to an amount not exceeding £15 in each case, or Maternity Home expenses, plus 17/6 per week maintenance charges in a Moral Welfare Hostel, the total amount not to exceed £15 in each case.

Premature Infants.

Space is provided on the birth notification cards for the weight of the infant to be recorded. A separate bedroom has always been arranged for the mother and infant. In cases of serious overcrowding, the mothers were sent to a Maternity Home. A special cot is provided for premature infants. Both Health Visitors and Midwives pay special attention to these cases. We have two full-time Home Helps, and three part-time.

War-time Nursery.

The War-time Nursery continued to function throughout the year. The Maternity and Child Welfare Committee in March reviewed the position of the nursery, having regard to the fact that as from 1st April the expenditure would not be wholly reimbursable. It was pointed out that the nursery could be kept open

by the Welfare Authority and maintained under the Maternity and Child Welfare powers of the Public Health Acts, for which Exchequer aid is included in the block grant. In the circumstances, a supply grant was made from the 1st April to Welfare Authorities in respect of their net approved expenditure on Day Nurseries. The Council in April approved the recommendation of the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee to carry on the War-time Nursery for the time being and to bear the balance of the cost themselves.

The average attendance has been 18 for those under two years and 51 for those between two and five years.

Extracts of Vital Statistics (from Registrar-General) for 1945.

Population ... 22,900.

		<i>Total.</i>	<i>Male.</i>	<i>Female.</i>	
Live	Legitimate	362	184	178	Birth Rate per 1,000 of estimated popula- tion 19.21
Births	Illegitimate	78	42	36	
		<hr/> 440 <hr/>	<hr/> 226 <hr/>	<hr/> 214 <hr/>	

		<i>Total.</i>	<i>Male.</i>	<i>Female.</i>	
Still	Legitimate	12	11	1	Rate of 30.83 per 1,000 total births.
Births	Illegitimate	2	1	1	
		<hr/> 14 <hr/>	<hr/> 12 <hr/>	<hr/> 2 <hr/>	

		<i>Total.</i>	<i>Male.</i>	<i>Female.</i>	
Deaths	... ..	266	138	128	Death Rate 11.61 per 1,000 of the estimated resident population.

The Live Birth Rate for England and Wales was 16.1 per 1,000 total population and for the 126 Great Towns was 19.1 per 1,000 civilian population.

The Death Rate for England and Wales was 11.4 per 1,000 total population and for the 126 Great Towns was 13.5 per 1,000 civilian population.

The Maternal Mortality Rate for England and Wales was :—
Per 1,000 total births 1.79

The Infant Mortality Rate for England and Wales was :—
Per 1,000 live births 46

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

1.—(a) **Laboratory Facilities.**

Facilities for typing pneumococci and for the provision of appropriate type sera can be arranged when necessary.

(b) **Ambulance Facilities.**

The Red Cross Ambulance and a special Fever Ambulance are still available.

(c) **Nursing in the Home.**

There are two district nurses.

(d) **Treatment Centres and Clinics.**

Maternity and Child Welfare Centres—An additional Centre was opened at Gaywood during the year to cater for residents in that area.

Orthopædic Clinic.

Venereal Disease Clinic.

Tuberculosis Clinic.

(e) **Hospitals.**

No change.

2.—(i) **Midwifery and Maternity Services.**

Two private nursing homes in Goodwins Road take 3 and 7 cases respectively. In addition, a home in Birchwood Street is allowed to take 2 cases. Beds may, in certain circumstances, be reserved at Stow Maternity Home, and good use was made of this service during the year. The Public Assistance Institution provides 3 beds. The Borough does not provide a Maternity Home, but plans have been passed to provide a Maternity block at the West Norfolk and King's Lynn General Hospital. 83 women had their confinement in Kings Lynn Hospital owing to various complications, but 61 of these patients came from outside the Borough.

(ii) **Institutional Provision for Mothers and Children.**

No change.

(iii) Health Visitors.

Miss S. M. Lilley was appointed full-time Health Visitor on 4th February. Two full-time Health Visitors and one part-time Health Visitor were, therefore, working in the Borough until 30th September, when Miss Vincent resigned her appointment to take up duties elsewhere. Details of the Health Visitors' work are appended.

To children under one year—first visits	...	474
Total visits	... ..	2,679
To Children between 1—5 years	...	3,718
To expectant mothers—total visits	...	213
Post Natal	... ..	114

Number of Foster Mothers—8.

Number of Foster Children—10.

Number of Visits paid—128.

Expectant Mothers. It was again decided not to escort mothers to Stow Maternity Home. They were advised to make their own arrangements and the system worked well. 20 mothers went to Stow, 12 to St. James' Hospital and 22 to the General Hospital, owing to complications in pregnancy.

Infant Welfare Clinics.

103 sessions were held at the Infant Welfare Centres.

Immunisation Clinics.

322 children were immunised against diphtheria.

Ante-natal and Post-natal Clinics.

These were held once a week. Towards the end of the year attendances showed a slight increase. There were 393 ante-natal attendances during the year, and 1 post-natal.

(iv) Infant Life Protection.

No change.

(v) Orthopædic Treatment.

At the Orthopædic Clinic. The Council have given financial assistance in many cases where the circumstances of the parents have been such as to prevent their bearing the whole cost of treatment, or appliances, themselves.

I should like to call the attention of the Committee to the fact that there were no maternal deaths and no cases of Diphtheria or Typhoid in the Borough in 1946.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

1.—Water.

Counties Laboratories,
Redwell Street,
Norwich.

CERTIFICATE OF ANALYSIS.

Sample collected from Tap at South Wootton on 12th December, 1946.

Colonies per ml.	Coliform Organisms McConkey 2 days @ 37 C	
	Present	Absent
	in ml.	in ml.
None		100

REMARKS.

This is an excellent bacteriological condition.

(Signed) W. LINCOLN SUTTON, F.R.I.C.

Norfolk and Suffolk County Laboratories,
Redwell Street
Norwich.

9th October, 1946.

Sample received from The Borough Engineer, King's Lynn. No. 115173 XX.

Mark or Seal

"ex Reservoir."

(The chemical results are stated in grains per gallon).

Distinctive No. or Label	Total Solids in Solution	Ammonia		Chlorine in Chlorides	Nitrogen as Nitrates	Nitrites	Oxygen absorbed from Permanga- nate	Hardness		Bacteriological Results			Physical characters
		Free and Saline	Albumi- noid					Total	Permanent	Colonies per ml. on agar at 37°C	Present in	Absent in	
Sample collected 2nd Oct.	24.4	nil	trace	1.4	0.36	nil	nil	16.4°	4.9°	none		100 ml.	Bright and Clear

Remarks :—This is a pure and wholesome water of the highest standard of organic and bacteriological quality, and in every way suitable for drinking and all the purposes of a public supply.

(Signed) W. LINCOLNE SUTTON.

2.—Rivers and Streams.

No change.

3.—(i) Public Cleansing.

No change.

Drainage.

No change since last report.

Cattle Market.

No change since last report.

Abattoir.

No public Abattoir is provided.

(iii) Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

The following is a summary of the work done during the year under the various Public Health and Housing Acts, viz. :—

996 Special complaints and special visits made.

236 Informal notices and intimations served.

50 Statutory notices served.

100 Notices fully completed according to specification.

Also :—

Water closet cisterns repaired and renewed	38
Drains re-layed or repaired	7
Drains cleared	51
Inspection chambers provided	4
Suitable ashbins provided	31
Dampness of walls remedied	15
Ceiling plaster repaired	35
Wall rendered	1
Miscellaneous defects	34
Yard concreted	1
New urinal provided	1
Soil pipe provided	1
Pail closets abolished and new water closets and drains provided	15
Workroom cleansed and lime-washed	1
New water supply pipe provided	11
New water closet pedestal provided and fixed to re-place hopper and trap	11
Flush pipe joints repaired	7
New concrete floors provided	13
Dangerous building demolished	1
Ventilation provided to water closet	1
Stair treads and risers repaired	7
Ventilation provided to pantry	2

Stoves renewed	...	...	...	...	12
House drains connected to sewer	...	...	...	...	2
Chimneys repaired	...	...	...	...	3
Windows repaired, renewed or made to open	...	...	...	...	21
Sashcords renewed	...	...	...	...	17
Eaves gutters provided and fixed	...	...	...	...	26
Wall plaster repaired	...	...	...	...	29
Fireplaces renewed or repaired	...	...	...	...	4
Coppers repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	14
New sink provided	...	...	...	...	1
Roofs repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	51
Floorboards repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	32
New W.C.'s provided	...	...	...	...	2
Doors repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	5
W.C. seats repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	8
W.C. pan repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	1
Accumulations of manure and refuse removed	...	...	...	...	2

Houses let in Lodgings.

No change

Common Lodging Houses.

The two common lodging houses were regularly visited and found to be conducted in a satisfactory manner.

Meetings of Owners and Tradesmen.

236 meetings were held with regard to defective houses, drains, etc.

House Drains.

During the year 276 drains were tested and examined. In all cases where defects were found notices were served on the owners concerned. 15 pail closets were abolished and new water closets provided, together with all necessary fittings, and drainage connected to the main sewer. The Corporation paying 50% of the cost in accordance with Section 47 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919.

Two ratcatchers have been at work throughout the year with satisfactory results. Sewers, Corporation property, Almshouses, Piggeries, Docks, Ships, etc., private as well as business premises, have been regularly treated. There is no doubt the rat population in the Borough has been considerably reduced during the year. No major infestation remains. Constant treatment of the Corporation refuse tip is necessary to ensure that it does not become reinfested.

Eradication of Bed Bugs and Fleas.

Number of house rooms disinfested (including Council and private houses) 74

Schools.

No change.

Report of Housing Manager.

The Council has made every endeavour to carry out a vigorous building campaign in the last year, but like many areas work has been held up at intervals during the twelve months due to three main causes :—

- (1) lack of labour.
- (2) lack of materials.
- (3) bad weather conditions.

In spite of this, however, the following dwellings have been completed :—

- 8 traditional type 3 bedroom houses at Gaywood.
- 4 traditional type 3 bedroom houses at West Lynn.
- 50 temporary prefabricated bungalows at North End.
- 8 permanent prefabricated 3 bedroom houses at North End.

A total number of 250 persons have been rehoused in these houses.

It is hoped to complete another 92 permanent prefabricated houses and at least 40 traditional type houses by December, 1947.

Since June of last year the Council has appointed a Housing Manager and department to administer the Council's Housing Estates. The administration is on the lines of the Octavia Hill method.

HOUSING STATISTICS.**1.—Inspection of Dwellinghouses during the year :—**

- (1) (a) Total number of dwellinghouses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) 250
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose... 862
- (2) (a) Number of dwellinghouses included under sub-head (1) above which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 130
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose... 427

2.—Remedy of defects during the year without service of Formal Notices:—

Number of defective dwellinghouses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	68
---	----

3.—Action under Statutory Powers during the year:—

(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:	
(1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ...	26
(2) Number of dwellinghouses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:	
(a) By Owners	17
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	1
(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:	
(1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	24
(2) Number of dwellinghouses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:	
(a) By Owners	13
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	1
(c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:	
(1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	Nil.
(2) Number of dwellinghouses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	Nil.
(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:	
(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	Nil.
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined the tenement or room having been rendered fit	Nil.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(b) **Meat and other Food.**

No change.

Slaughter-house.

854 visits have been made to the Slaughterhouse during the year.

Markets.

No change. 103 visits have been made to markets during the year.

(c) **Food and Drugs Act, 1938.**

During the year 36 samples of Food and Drugs were submitted for analysis. (See table on page 16).

(d) **Chemical and Bacteriological Examination of Food.**

This was carried out by S. Greenburgh, Esq., Ph.D., B.Sc., F.R.I.C., Public Analyst, Tenison Road, Cambridge.

CHEMICAL EXAMINATION OF FOOD.

Article	Samples Taken		Samples Unsatisfactory	
	Formal	Informal	Formal	Informal
New Milk	20	6	9	—
Ice Cream	6	—	—	—
Malt Vinegar	4	—	—	—
Totals	30	6	9	—

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed (if known)	2797	954	2467	7294	1305
Number inspected	2797	954	2467	7294	1305
All diseases except Tuberculosis—					
Whole carcasses condemned	7	6	8	8	5
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	781	236	8	202	20
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	26.92%	24.74%	0.32%	2.88%	1.91%
Tuberculosis only—					
Whole carcasses condemned	13	26	1	—	4
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	503	360	—	—	100
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	18.44%	40.46%	—	—	7.95%

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

There were no cases of smallpox or diphtheria in the Borough during the year.

There were 37 cases of scarlet fever, of whom 20 were school children. 20 of the cases were removed to the Infectious Diseases Hospital. No deaths were attributed to scarlet fever. There were three cases of puerperal pyrexia, but no deaths. Enquiries were made with reference to all cases of Infectious Diseases.

194 rooms were disinfected, and 348 articles were treated at the steam disinfecter.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

Immunisation continues to be carried out at the school clinics, the Welfare Centre and by private doctors. In 1946, 295 children under 5 years of age and 27 between 5 and 15 years of age were immunised and 4 patients had re-inforcing injections. 42.6% of the children under 5 have been immunised and 77.22% of school children.

ANALYSIS OF DIPHTHERIA FOR THE PAST NINETEEN YEARS.

	Notifica- tions.	Under One.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 45.	45 to 65.	Deaths
1928	221	—	25	154	28	14	—	12
1929	80	—	14	51	11	3	1	8
1930	86	—	16	62	3	3	2	10
1931	28	—	7	12	4	3	2	4
1932	19	—	4	9	3	3	—	2
1933	3	—	1	2	—	—	—	1
1934	5	—	1	3	—	1	—	2
1935	12	—	2	6	2	1	1	1
1936	11	—	2	7	1	1	—	1
1937	16	—	2	8	2	4	—	—
1938	44	—	7	31	—	2	—	—
1939	15	—	2	13	—	—	—	—
1940	33	—	9	21	2	1	—	3
1941	23	1	5	14	1	2	—	—

1942	7	—	3	4	—	—	—	—
1943	16	—	3	8	4	1	—	1
1944	8	—	1	4	3	—	—	—
1945	4	—	1	3	—	—	—	1
1946	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

35 cases were admitted into the Infectious Diseases Hospital during 1946, viz. :—

20 cases of scarlet fever.

2 cases of tonsilitis.

*2 cases of diphtheria.

3 cases of mumps.

4 cases of chicken pox.

1 case of german measles.

2 cases of measles.

1 case of gonorrhoea.

*both cases from outside the Borough.

Source of Water Supply.

No change.

Port Sanitary Regulations, 1933.

No change.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING 1946.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	Cases Notified in King's Lynn.									
	At all ages.	Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 45.	45 to 65.	65 and over.	Hospital.	Deaths.
Scarlet Fever	37	—	10	20	3	3	1	—	20	—
Pneumonia	12	2	1	2	2	2	2	1	—	6
Whooping Cough	17	2	9	6	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	3	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis (Pulmonary) ...	25	—	—	3	5	11	5	1	—	8
Tuberculosis (other forms) ...	5	—	—	3	1	1	—	—	—	1
Erysipelas	3	—	1	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
Chicken Pox	27	—	6	18	2	1	—	—	4	—
Scabies	46	—	1	19	7	11	8	—	—	—
Measles	76	2	26	45	2	1	—	—	2	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Jaundice	10	—	—	4	4	2	—	—	—	—
Meningitis	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Malaria	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Totals ...	265	8	54	121	30	34	16	2	26	15

Tuberculosis. New Cases and Mortality during 1946.

			New Cases.				Deaths.			
			Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
			M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5	...	...	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
15	...	...	2	4	—	1	—	1	—	1
25	...	...	8	2	1	—	3	1	—	—
35	...	...	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
45	...	...	—	1	—	—	2	—	—	—
55	...	...	2	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
65	...	...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals		...	15	10	3	1	6	2	—	1

In conclusion I would like to thank the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee for the assistance they have given me and to express my appreciation of the work done by the staff of the Public Health Department during the past year.

I remain, Madam and Gentlemen,

Very faithfully yours,

JAMES W. McINTOSH,

Medical Officer of Health.

